

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: Chris Williams (District 3)

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Becky Lalumia (Director of Finance), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Terry Huval (Director of Utilities), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), John Raines (Director of Public Works), Tony Tramel (Director of Traffic & Transportation), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(002) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Regular Council Meeting of February 25, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(005) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Trumps announced Items 5b and 5d were pulled. He also announced the meetings for the month of March will be held on March 5, March 18 and March 25 due to Mardi Gras.

EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(020) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: President's Report.

City-Parish President Comeaux announced that the local district judge has refused to grant the injunction that was sought by Regency Construction with reference to bids received on removal of debris from backyards, drainage channels and removal of damaged trees and limbs that were overhanging in public rights-of-way. City-Parish Attorney Steve Dupuis explained that Assistant City-Parish Attorney Pat Wartelle was contacted by the attorney for Regency Construction informing him that Regency may appeal the matter. He was also advised that the intended work in the channels and the overhangs is located in the public right-of-way and feels this matter is within the scope of the initial contract with Omni Contractors. The existing contract with Omni could be amended to undertake those two aspects of the cleanup.

Upon questioning by Menard, Dupuis stated it has been determined by Public Works that FEMA will reimburse LCG. CAO Glenn Weber gave a brief presentation on expenditures that have been incurred along with future costs to complete the debris removal. The Council has appropriated \$7,388,000 for the overall debris removal, which included curbside removal, cleanup of parks, channel cleanup, right-of-way overhang and inspection and monitoring. The total amount of monies spent prior to backyard removal would be \$5,887,000, therefore, leaving a balance of \$1,441,000 that would be unencumbered. Weber explained LCG's share of the cost would be approximately \$883,088 after reimbursement from FEMA and the State for a total of \$5,000,000. If LCG were to complete the backyard cleanup, which includes the disposal costs, the cost would be approximately \$2,345,000. Once the balance of \$1,441,000 is included in the \$2.3 million, there would be a balance of \$900,000, leaving the Council the responsibility of appropriating those funds to award the contract for backyard removal.

Upon questioning by Stevenson, Raines indicated that FEMA is in agreement with the backyard

removal project as long as the necessary guidelines are followed. Upon questioning by Benjamin, Dupuis stated with the pending litigation, the local district judge ruled that Regency Construction, the 4th lowest bidder, was not entitled to an injunction to stop LCG from awarding a contract or moving forward. The private property removal, with approval, should begin within the next 5 days. There is concern if the channels are not cleaned within a significant amount of time, there will be flooding problems that may occur by the summer.

At this time, Councilman Mouton recognized Brian Murphy, a student at Cathedral Carmel and a member of Troop #405, who was present at the meeting. He also recognized Ashley Howell who is a student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Recognition - Recognize Craig Gregory, Candidate for Lieutenant Governor. *Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Gregory was unable to attend.*

REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(620) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5a: Status report on Hog Alley drainage

John Raines explained all necessary rights-of-way have been acquired and the project should begin within the next 10 days.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5b: Status report on herbicide spraying as it pertains to drainage
This item was pulled.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(225) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5c: Status on drainage improvement/flooding in Brookhollow Subdivision

Councilman Menard explained Mr. Kiefner had contacted him in 2001 to discuss the flooding concerns in Brookhollow Subdivision. A survey was taken by Public Works and was determined there was a problem with the ditch flowing into Edith Coulee. Once this ditch would be cleaned, it would alleviate a portion of the problem until Edith Coulee could be cleaned. A request was made to move forward with the project, however, Menard stated as of yet, nothing has been done. Raines responded it was discovered there were 3 pipelines that cross through the area that are set at a grade that is insufficiently low to dig the channel necessary to get the appropriate outfall. Public Works will clean out in order to give some relief to the neighborhood. Because of the cost of lowering the gas lines, cleaning the coulee is not an option at this time. Raines and his staff will meet with the residents to discuss what option is chosen to alleviate the problem until the coulee can get cleaned.

The following persons were recognized:

Tim Sonnier a resident of Brookhollow Subdivision for approximately 7 months, expressed his concerns because the water has risen into his backyard 4 times. He stated with the summer rains approaching, he is also concerned with potential mosquito problems.

Chris Kiefner reiterated comments by Mr. Sonnier. He expressed concerns with regard to the water that flows from across Hwy 733 into the coulee along with water that flows from the fields around the neighborhood. He posed questions to John Raines regarding an upcoming neighborhood meeting, to include the scope of the problem, the results of the Corps of Engineers survey, the proposed solution to the problem and the impediments that block the completion of this project.

Trey Clark moved to Brookhollow Subdivision approximately 9 months ago, in which time the water has risen at least 4 times. He stated his concerns regarding standing water and potential mosquito problems.

Natalie Thomas stated because of the lack of water flow, her yard remains saturated. When the residents purchased lots in the neighborhood, the land was known to be in a non-flood zone, yet everyone experiences flooding.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5d: Status of Ambassador Caffery Parkway North
This item was pulled.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5e: Recognize Murray Boudreaux regarding speed humps in Acadian Oaks

Mr. Boudreaux expressed his concerns with speeding traffic through his neighborhood. There has been an increased amount of distress over the safety of the children. The vehicular traffic ignores stops signs, speed limits as well as deaf child area signs. In the past, the police department has patrolled the area. Mr. Boudreaux has completed a Traffic Calming Application Packet and submitted all necessary information to Traffic and Transportation. Tramel stated his staff would now proceed with identifying the impact area. Once this step is completed, the staff will continue to follow the policies and procedures and meet with Mr. Boudreaux and the residents.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(497) AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Comments from the public on other matters.

The following persons were recognized:

Mary Ann Ficaró attended a “Real Talk” conducted by Chris Williams in which the topic focused on the successes, challenges and failures of the late night bus service. At the meeting, it was stated that a synopsis would be forthcoming and she would await a response by the Administration.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(007)

Harold Arceneaux expressed his concerns with regard to the paratransit service. Mr. Arceneaux forwarded correspondence he had received to Steve Dupuis regarding a ruling by the Supreme Court about denying services to individuals with disabilities. Mr. Dupuis responded he replied to Mr. Arceneaux’s request. In his reply, he advised that the correspondence received was not a decision of a court, but an appellant brief that was filed by one of the party litigants. Once the court makes a decision, he offered to meet with Mr. Arceneaux and explain what he feels the opinion offers.

Carrie Baird expressed her concerns with the increased(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(088) flow of traffic on Eastland Street since the construction of Camellia Boulevard began. The street is a narrow roadway and with the amount of traffic traveling along the road, it has begun to deteriorate.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the meeting adjourned.

Norma A. Dugas
Clerk of the Council